

Section 4.23

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Implementation of the proposed action since publication of the June 2000 Final EIS (i.e., project construction prior to the court injunction) involved the commitment of a range of natural, physical, human, and fiscal resources. Land affected in the construction of Legacy Parkway was committed to use as a highway; however, it could be converted to another use should a greater need arise. As a result of the initial project construction, fossil fuels, labor, highway construction materials, and funding were irretrievably committed to the project. See Section 4.20, *Construction Impacts*, of the Supplemental EIS for a complete description of construction impacts that have occurred since publication of the Final EIS.

As stated in the Final EIS, the commitment of the resources is based on the premise that residents in the immediate area, the region, and the State of Utah would benefit by the improved transportation system, which would outweigh the commitment of these resources. If an alternative on another alignment is selected or if the No-Build Alternative is selected, wetland and other natural habitat resources that were removed by grading and other construction activities would be returned to a natural state. In addition, property acquired for the proposed action would be disposed of.